

WISCONSIN URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL

Bayfield's Lakeside Pavilion, 2 Front Street, Bayfield WI 54814

Friday, June 17, 2016

9 am-3 pm

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Marla Eddy, Mark Freberg, August Hoppe, Leif Hubbard, Shirley Brabender Mattox, Donald Merkes, Daniel Siewert, David Sivyer, Jordan Skiff, Jeffery Treu, Kelli Tuttle
EX-OFFICIO (NON-VOTING) MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Jill Johnson, Don Kissinger (for Brian Wahl), Jeff Roe, Olivia Shanahan (for Sara Minkoff)
GUESTS (NON-VOTING) IN ATTENDANCE: Bob Benjamin, Tom Duke, David Laufenberg, Art Ode, Mayor Gordon Ringberg, Jim Warren
ABSENT: Bruce Allison, Wendy Braun, Todd Chwala, Fred Clark, Patty Dreier, Thomas Dunbar, Kristin Gies, Thomas Landgraf, Kim Miller, Tony Nowak, Blake Theisen, Les Werner, Shahla Werner, Martin Whitehead, Curt Witynski, Jeff Wolters

AGENDA SUMMARY:

Item #	Time	Topic	Person/People Responsible
1.	9:00 – 9:15 AM	Call Meeting To Order: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Welcome + Thanks to Art Ode ➤ Introduce DNR Guests: Tom Duke, District Forestry Leader; David Laufenberg, Urban Forestry Team Member; Jim Warren, Public & Private Forestry Section Chief ➤ Approve April 21, 2016 Minutes ➤ Agenda Repair 	David Sivyer, chair
2.	9:15 – 9:25 AM	Joint meeting with MnSTAC and WUFC: Planning update	David Sivyer, chair, and Jeff Roe, DNR staff
3.	9:25 – 10:05 AM	Discussion with Secretary's Director of Northern Wisconsin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Forestry Division Update Regarding Moving the Division to Northern Wisconsin ➤ UFC Issues for Discussion 	Tom Duke, DNR Staff
4.	10:05– 10:15	DNR Urban Forestry Team Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introduce New Staff, David Laufenberg ➤ Project Updates 	Jeff Roe, DNR staff
BREAK	10:15 – 10:30 AM	Break: 15 minutes	
5.	10:30 – 11:00 AM	Issue Group Strategic Plans: Review final drafts	Issue Group Leaders
6.	11:00 – 11:10 AM	Wisconsin Arborist Apprenticeship Program Update	August Hoppe
7.	11:10 – 11:30 AM	Open Forum + Future Agenda Items	David Sivyer, chair
	11:30 AM	Adjourn	David Sivyer, chair
LUNCH	11:30 AM – NOON	Lunch: 30 Minutes	
	NOON -- 3 PM	Tour of local forestry projects and developments: guided by Art Ode <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Carpooling to Sites 	Art Ode

1. Call Meeting to Order

9:00 – 9:15 AM	<u>Lead</u> David Sivyer	<u>Length</u> 15 minutes	<u>Type</u> APPROVE MINUTES
<u>Description:</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Council Chair David Sivyer, DNR Northern WI Urban Forestry Coordinator Don Kissinger and Bayfield Mayor Gordy Ringberg offered thanks and anecdotes to honor Art Ode and his service to the City of Bayfield and residents of WI as Volunteer City Forester and valued member of the WI Urban Forestry Council. David Sivyer presented a plaque of recognition on behalf of the UFC to Art Ode; the plaque was created on WI Urban Wood. 			
<u>Decisions:</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mark Freberg moved to accept the April 21, 2016 minutes and Marla Eddy seconded he motion. Minutes approved by unanimous vote. 			

2. Joint meeting with MnSTAC and WUFC: Planning update

9:15 – 9:25 AM	<u>Lead</u> David Sivyer, Jeff Roe	<u>Length</u> 10 MINUTES	<u>Type</u> INFORMATIONAL
<u>Description:</u>			
<p>David Sivyer offered a summary of a conference call and next steps regarding a joint meeting with MnSTAC (Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Council). The meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2016 in Minneapolis/St. Paul area. Jill Johnson offered comments on similarities and differences between councils, history of joint meetings, etc. Jill, the Executive Committee, Jeff Roe and Sara Minkoff will continue to plan for this event.</p>			

3. Discussion with Secretary's Director of Northern Wisconsin

9:25 – 10:05 AM	<u>Lead</u> Tom Duke, DNR Staff	<u>Length</u> 40 MINUTES	<u>Type</u> INFORMATIONAL
<u>Description/Discussion:</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom Duke, DNR Northern Forestry Leader, gave an update on the proposal/study, required in the 2015-2017 Biennial Budget, to relocate DNR Forestry Headquarters to northern Wisconsin. This is a fact-finding and analysis effort conducted by the department and submitted to the Governor's office; no further intent of the legislation was expressly listed. • Northern WI was defined as north of Highway 10. The Division of Forestry has about 400 employees. • Request for Information yielded 40 community responses (cities, villages, towns, counties, and unincorporated communities). • Comment period for public and WI UF Council will be this summer, in time for DNR to consider comments prior to submission of the proposal/study to the Governor's office in September, 2016. The proposal would be considered as part of the 2017-2019 biennial budget process that will begin in early 2017. • The proposal/study will consider locations, operating costs, technology resources/needs, moving costs, recruitment, cross-programmatic communications/needs, etc. As many as 10-60 positions would be considered "headquarter positions," most would have statewide responsibilities (as opposed to only regional), but not all statewide positions would have to be moved. • Main Programmatic Contacts: Rebecca Diebel, Forestry Leadership Team, Division Leadership Team. • UF Council may submit comments on part or whole of the proposal/study. • Some concerns expressed: emphasizing timber production areas may be unfavorable to urban centers; logistics; cost. • Tom Duke updated the Council on the DNR Alignment Process. He summarized the impacts to Forestry as comprised mostly of changes to the Managed Forest Law program, Private Forest Land Owner efforts, and cross-program impact from changes to partner Divisions/bureaus. More to come in July. • UF Council (Executive Committee) is on the agenda for the August DNR Forest Leadership Team Meeting. 			
<u>Decisions:</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Leif Hubbard moved to authorize Executive Committee to act on behalf of Council in regard to the proposal and issue a formal recommendation to DNR Forestry if needed and Daniel Siewert seconded he motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote. ➤ Executive Committee will review and track the proposal, and may alternatively recommend that the UFC convene for a special meeting if needed. 			

4. DNR Urban Forestry Team Updates

10:05 – 10:15 AM	<u>Lead</u> Jeff Roe, Jill Johnson	<u>Length</u> 40 MINUTES	<u>Type</u> INFORMATIONAL
<u>Description/Discussion:</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeff Roe introduced new DNR Urban Forestry Specialist, David Laufenberg. David will provide support to each of the regional UF Coordinators and help with workload in the absence of the West Central Regional UF Coordinator. He will also assist in statewide efforts and is based out of the Central Office in Madison. David has a background in Conservation Biology, avian research and projects with UW-Madison Arboretum and DNR. He comes most recently from an education position with a supporting nonprofit of Yellowstone National Park. • Olivia Shanahan announced that she is taking a new position with the Public Service Commission of WI, Office of Energy Innovation (formerly known as State Energy Office); will have her last day at DNR is Friday, June 24. She will retain her same email address and will be involved in Urban Forestry via the Statewide Wood Energy Team and Wisconsin Arborist Association Board of Directors. • Jeff Roe made the following announcements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Filling both the West Central Regional Urban Forestry Coordinator and the Urban Forestry Partnership and Policy Specialist vacant positions, most recently held by Cindy Casey and Dick Rideout respectively, is proceeding to the next steps in the process. The Council extended a thank you to FLT by way of Tom Duke for prioritizing these positions, which they recommended be filled in recent advisory reports. ➤ The Urban Forest Owners Survey will be piloted with federal grant funds; ~1500 residents will participate. ➤ The WI Urban Forestry Consultants Directory will be reformatted and available online this summer (in time for UF Grant Application period, July/August). • Jill Johnson, US Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry Representative for North East Region, updated the Council on the Cooperative Management Review process that was completed in April this year (occurs every 5 years). The WI UF Program was commended on many fronts and a final report will be issued by the USFS to the WI DNR regarding all State and Private Forestry Programs. • Jill gave an update on the Tech Transfer subcommittee that is directing the NE Region's tech transfer efforts. The committee has identified that UF Councils are the best partners to engage for recommendations to the Forest Service on tech transfer needs and opportunities. 			

10:15 — 10:30 AM

BREAK

5. Issue Group Strategic Plans: Review final drafts

10:30 – 11:00 AM	<u>Lead</u> Executive Committee, Issue Group Leaders	<u>Length</u> 30 MINUTES	<u>Type</u> Decision
<u>Description/Discussion:</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This item was tabled due to absences of Issue Group leaders. 			

6. Wisconsin Arborist Apprenticeship Program Update

11:00 – 11:10 AM	<u>Lead</u> August Hoppe	<u>Length</u> 10 MINUTES	<u>Type</u> Update
<u>Description/Discussion:</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August Hoppe presented the nation's first Arboriculture Apprentice program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This program will certify arboriculture as a skilled trade. Skilled trades are presented by high school guidance counselors, tracked by federal labor statistics and will increase the visibility and credibility of the profession of arboriculture. The program is expected to correct the long-time imbalance of low labor supply to high demand. ➤ Wachtel and Hoppe Tree Care companies are the first to sign on apprentices who will undertake on-the-job training and paid related education at Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) in Fall 2016. ➤ The companies and MATC held a signing event for publicity and are holding a Q&A meeting in July. Other promotional tactics: e-blast and mailed letter to WAA members; social media; 2016 WAA/DNR annual conference and July summer conference. ➤ Gateway Technical College is developing a similar program for intended start of Fall 2017. ➤ Program consists of a 42-month commitment between the Employer and employee. 			

7. Open Forum + Future Agenda Items

11:10 – 11:30 AM	<u>Lead</u> David Sivyer	<u>Length</u> 20 MINUTES	<u>Type</u> Updates
<p><u>Description/Discussion:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reminder to all members to nominate individuals, groups, projects in your networks that are deserving of an Urban Forestry Council Award. Nominations due October 31! (earlier deadline this year!) ➤ EAB Response: Fond du Lac is dealing with EAB confirmation. Jordan Skiff recognizes the work done by DNR, UFC and other entities (EAB Ops Team, Michigan groups) to prepare communities like his for response. ➤ Wood Utilization Issue Group invites you to the Urban Forest Fest in River Hills, WI this September. WAA will be participating. ➤ Dwayne Sperber continues to work on urban wood specifications to impact the large-scale use as opposed to homeowner/craft/local niche market. 			

11:30 AM

ADJOURN (for lunch and local area tour)